

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T TOKYO 2431

STADIS/EXDIS////////////////////////////////

FOR EA HOLBROOKE AND EA/J SHERMAN FROM SHOESMITH

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, JA
SUBJ: FUKUDA VISIT: EXCHANGE OF (SUBSTANTIVE) GIFTS

1. A MIDDLE-LEVEL MOFA OFFICIAL RECENTLY INFORMED US THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE REVIEWING A LIST OF SUITABLE "GIFTS" THAT FUKUDA MIGHT BRING WITH HIM TO WASHINGTON. THIS, HE SAID, WAS IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE USG REALLY WANTED WHAT MIGHT BE OFFERED BEFORE ANY GIFT-WRAPPING TOOK PLACE. WE REJOINED THAT PERHAPS THE ERA HAD ARRIVED WHEN DECISIONS SHOULD BE MADE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY SERVED MUTUAL NATIONAL INTEREST, AND WHILE OUR INTERLOCUTOR DID NOT CHALLENGE THIS IDEA, HE SEEMED TO REGARD IT AS A NICE BIT OF INTERNATIONAL IDEALISM -- NOW WHAT WOULD THE US LIKE TO HAVE?

2. THE TWO ITEMS MENTIONED BY THE MOFA OFFICIAL WERE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE EGYPT CONSORTIUM AND SUPPORT FOR THE ZIMBABWE FUND. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOJ WAS NOT SURE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION FELT STRONGLY ABOUT EITHER. WHILE WE ASSURED HIM THAT US INTEREST WAS UNDIMINISHED, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT RENEWED HIGH-LEVEL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENCOURAGE A JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO EITHER PROJECT. WE ASSUME THERE MAY
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BE OTHER ITEMS WITH EQUAL OR HIGHER PRIORITY THAT THE PRESIDENT MAY WISH TO PUT ON HIS AGENDA. PORTUGAL COMES TO MIND, AND, IF THERE IS INSUFFICIENT FORWARD MOTION BY THE TIME OF THE SUMMIT, THE PRESIDENT MIGHT WISH TO FOLLOW UP ON THE TRADE ITEMS THAT FIGURED IN THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING: CITRUS FRUIT, COLOR TV SETS AND STEEL EXPORTS.

3. FROM OUR PAROCHIAL VANTAGE, WE WOULD VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD INDICATE A STRONG INTEREST IN HAVING JAPAN RELIEVE US OF A SUBSTANTIAL SHARE OF THE EVER-INCREASING LOCAL LABOR COSTS BORNE BY THE US FORCES. (WE ARE SUBMITTING A SEPARATE DRAFT PAPER WHICH WILL COVER THIS ITEM.) WE REALIZE THAT WE ARE AT TOO PRELIMINARY A STAGE TO EXPECT MUCH IN THE WAY OF A COMMITMENT DURING FUKUDA'S VISIT, AND THAT STRICTLY SPEAKING THIS IS NOT IN THE GIFT CATEGORY. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE END RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WE ARE ABOUT TO ENTER INTO ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE JAPANESE UNDERSTAND WE REGARD IT AS A SERIOUS MATTER. IN A SENSE, THE GOJ IS COMMITTED TO SOME RELIEF AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY IT WILL BE FORTHCOMING -- THE GOJ NEVER WOULD HAVE ENTERED INTO LAST YEAR'S PRELIMINARY LABOR-COST STUDY OTHERWISE. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD, HOWEVER, NOT TO EXPECT TOO MUCH, WHEREAS FOR OUR POAST WE WOULD LIKE TO THINK BIG, IN TERMS OF ACTIONS THAT COULD AMOUNT TO SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

4. ONCE WE HAVE OUR OWN LIST IN ORDER, WE WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO THINK OF EXCHANGE GIFTS. TWO THAT OCCUR TO US IMMEDIATELY ARE A FORTHCOMING STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR-FUEL REPROCESSING AND FUNDING OF THE U.S. CONTRBUTION TO UN UNIVERSITY.

5. CLEARLY THE COMPILATION AND ORDERING OF BOTH LISTS CAN ONLY BE DONE IN WASHINGTON, BUT WE SAW NO HARM IN GETTING AN OAR IN WITH THE REMINDER THAT JAPAN'S PRESENT LEADERSHIP IS UNLIKELY LIGHTLY TO DISCARD A DEEPLY INGRAINED CUSTOM. WHILE THE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON THEMSELVES WILL NATURALLY
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PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SIGNAL THE IMPORTANCE AND PRIORITIES
2E ATTACH TO OUR DESIDERATA, SHOULD YOU WISH US TO DROP ANY
HINTS WE WILL BE GLAD TO DO SO.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

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